

The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 70-14

**The Student Senate
70th Session
Texas A&M University**

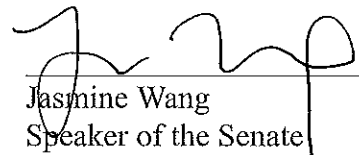
Introduced By: Chase Archer, Legislative Relations
Katherine Villarreal, Legislative Relations
Brandon Gindt, Vice President Legislative Relations
Eric Mendoza, Freshman Caucus

Sponsored By: Katina Economides, Legislative Affairs, Off-Campus Caucus
Kaylyn Roberts
Matthew Hernandez

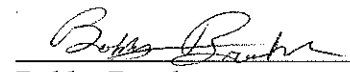
Action Taken

PROCEED

Certified By:


Jasmine Wang
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:


Bobby Brooks
Student Body President

Mental Health Services Improvement Bill

"A bill recommending an increase in counselors at Texas A&M University and advocating that a statewide policy be adopted requiring universities to maintain the appropriate student to counselor ratio."

Whereas(1): An unprecedented number of students are seeking mental health services to treat issues including anxiety, depression, and suicide.

Whereas(2): Texas A&M Student Counseling Services currently employs 32 counselors for a growing student body of 62,527; and,



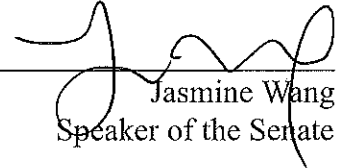
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Whereas(3): The International Association of Counseling Services calls for a counselor to student ratio of 1 to 1,000; and, Texas A&M's current ratio is 1 counselor for every 1,954 students.

Whereas(4): Students face a 4 week average waiting period when seeking assistance; a one week wait for students whose situations are considered urgent; and,

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Jasmine Wang
Speaker of the Senate

Whereas(5): Texas A&M counseling services sees 700 students on average per week.

Whereas(6): Currently no state policy exists requiring public universities to employ an appropriate number of counselors to meet the recommended ratio.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): A statewide policy should be enacted requiring public universities to maintain a counselor to student ratio within the recommended range of 1 to 1,000; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted (2): Adding counseling staff would reduce wait times and increase the amount of students able to be seen per week. Students with cases classified as urgent or crisis who require immediate care would no longer face life-threatening wait times; and,

Let it be

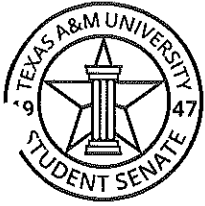
Further

Enacted(3): As the official policy of the Student Government Association, the Legislative Relations Commission be the authorized authority to advocate for this policy; and,

Let it be

Further

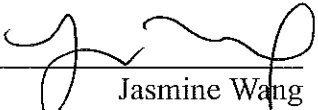
Enacted(4): A copy of this bill be sent to:
John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System
Michael Young, President of Texas A&M University
Dr. Daniel Pugh, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Maggie Gartner, Director of Student Counseling Services
Michael O'Quinn, Texas A&M Vice President of Government Relations



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Jasmine Wang
Speaker of the Senate

Texas Senator Charles Schwertner, District 5
Texas Representative John Raney, District 14
Texas Senator Jane Nelson, District 12
Texas Senator Kirk Watson, District 14
Texas Representative Ryan Guillen, District 31